



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

NOV 21 2005

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Name: Ridge Road Water Supply Improvement Project
Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority

Purpose of Project: This project involves extending public water service to existing residences within the Towns of Huron and Rose and interconnecting the two water systems to provide increased operational flexibility and reliability.

Project Originators: Towns of Huron and Rose, and the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority

Project Location: Wayne County, New York

Project Description: The proposed project is for the installation of a total of 23,100 linear feet of 8-inch and 12-inch water lines, with associated hydrants and valves, and a master water meter at the interconnection point between the two Towns.

Estimated Eligible Project Costs: \$1,255,500

EPA Grant: \$ 578,600

Our environmental review of this project indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. Consequently, we have made a decision not to prepare an EIS on the project. This decision is based on a careful review of the project's environmental information document and other supporting information. All of these documents, along with the Environmental Assessment (copy enclosed), are on file at the offices of the EPA Region 2 and the Towns of Huron and Rose, New York, where they are available for public scrutiny upon request.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to EPA for consideration. All comments must be received within 30 calendar days of the date of this finding of no significant impact (FNSI). Please address your comments to: Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after the date of this FNSI.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>

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Environmental Assessment

I. Project Identification: Ridge Road Water Supply Improvement Project
Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority

EPA Grant Number: XP972914-04

Grant Recipient: Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority
3377 Daansen Road
Walworth, New York 14568

Project Location: Towns of Huron and Rose
Wayne County, New York

II. Description of Facility Planning Area:

The planning area for this project is located in the east central part of Wayne County, New York (figure 1). The Towns of Huron and Rose are rural/agricultural communities, and existing housing is scattered throughout the countryside. The hamlet of Huron, in the Town of Huron, and the hamlets of North Rose and Rose, in the Town of Rose, contain small commercial cores, with higher density housing located adjacent to the business districts.

Sodus Bay, located just west of the planning area, is a center of recreational activity on Lake Ontario. Sodus Bay is used for boating, fishing and other water-related activities, and is a popular location for seasonal cottages and waterfront homes. Sodus Bay is the most significant aesthetic resource in the project area, and homes have been built to take advantage of the view and the location along the waterfront. A portion of the Lake Shore Marshes State Wildlife Management Area is located directly south of Sodus Bay.

The planning area drains into Sodus Creek. This stream is a Class C(T) stream which empties into Sodus Bay, a Class B water body. The highest use assigned to Class B waters, as well as Class C(T) waters, is contact recreation (swimming etc.), trout, and trout propagation. Neither Sodus Creek nor Sodus Bay serves as a drinking water source.

Public water is currently available in some portions of the Towns of Huron and Rose. However, no public water is currently available to residents in the service area of the proposed project. Residents and businesses there are dependent upon groundwater for their water supply.

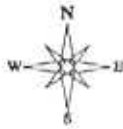
III. Purpose and Need for the Project:

The project is being proposed to eliminate the dependency of existing households on individual wells, which are inadequate and produce contaminated supplies. According to the New York State (NYS) Department of Health, there is substantial evidence of need for a potable water

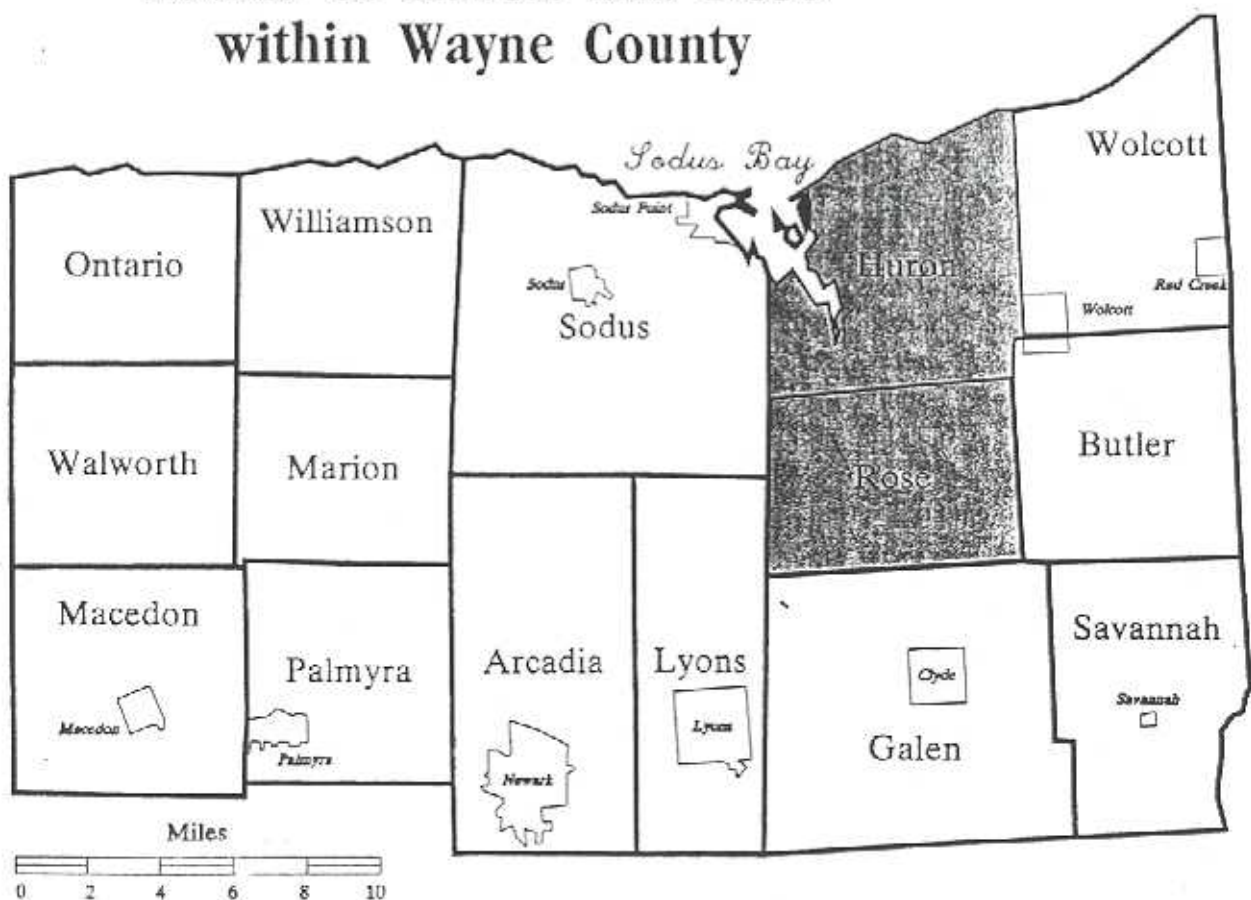
REGIONAL LOCATION MAP

Towns of Huron and Rose, Wayne County

Wayne County
within New York State



Towns of Huron and Rose
within Wayne County



supply within the proposed service area. Individual groundwater supplies in the Towns of Huron and Rose have a long history of producing limited yields of extremely poor quality water. Water available to most properties within the proposed service area is very poor bacteriologically. Some private water supplies have been contaminated by the infiltration of coliform and fecal coliform bacteria from septic tank effluent. The Department of Health has determined that the water from wells contaminated with coliform and fecal coliform bacteria is unfit for human consumption. The presence of this bacteria in the water supply presents a major concern for the public health and safety of local residents. Consumption of water with elevated levels of coliform bacteria can lead to serious mental and physical illness as well as to various short-term flu-like or intestinal illnesses.

In addition, these individual wells are generally undesirable in regard to the levels of inorganic chemical constituents (i.e., calcium, manganese, iron, sodium and sulfur) that are present. The levels of these chemicals cause calcium and manganese to build up on fixtures and utensils. The water quality is so poor that a significant portion of the households purchase or transport water from outside sources for their own domestic use. Marshall Farms, a prominent business and large employer in the area, currently trucks water to its facility due to inadequate wells, and some residents currently pay several hundred dollars a year to operate expensive softening and treatment systems for their well water supplies.

Finally, the project will improve fire protection in the area by increasing the water supply available for fire fighting purposes.

IV. Description of the Selected Plan:

The Ridge Road Water Supply Improvement Project involves the extension of existing public water service within the Towns of Huron and Rose and interconnecting the two public water systems. The interconnection will increase the reliability of both systems by providing a back up source of water supply to both. To accomplish this, a total of 23,100 feet of water main, 8" to 12" in diameter, will be installed along portions of Bay Shore Road, Resort Road, Ridge Road, and Lake Bluff Road (see figure 2). In addition to the water main, associated work includes fire hydrants, valves, connections to existing water mains, water services, excavation and bedding materials, surface restoration, and a water meter at the Huron-Rose town line.

The project will provide public water service to approximately 80.5 equivalent dwelling units, including Marshall Farms. Most of the new project service area will be supplied with public water provided by the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority. The Authority will supply properties along Bay Shore Road, Resort Road, Ridge Road, and NYS Route 414, north of Marshall Farms, with water from Lake Ontario, via the Town of Sodus. The Authority will supply Town of Huron customers along NYS Route 414, south of Marshall Farms, from the Town of Rose public water supply. There is sufficient water supply capacity available to meet the demands required for the Ridge Road Water Supply Improvement Project. This project functions independently and does not require the future implementation of any larger overall project or program.

RIO

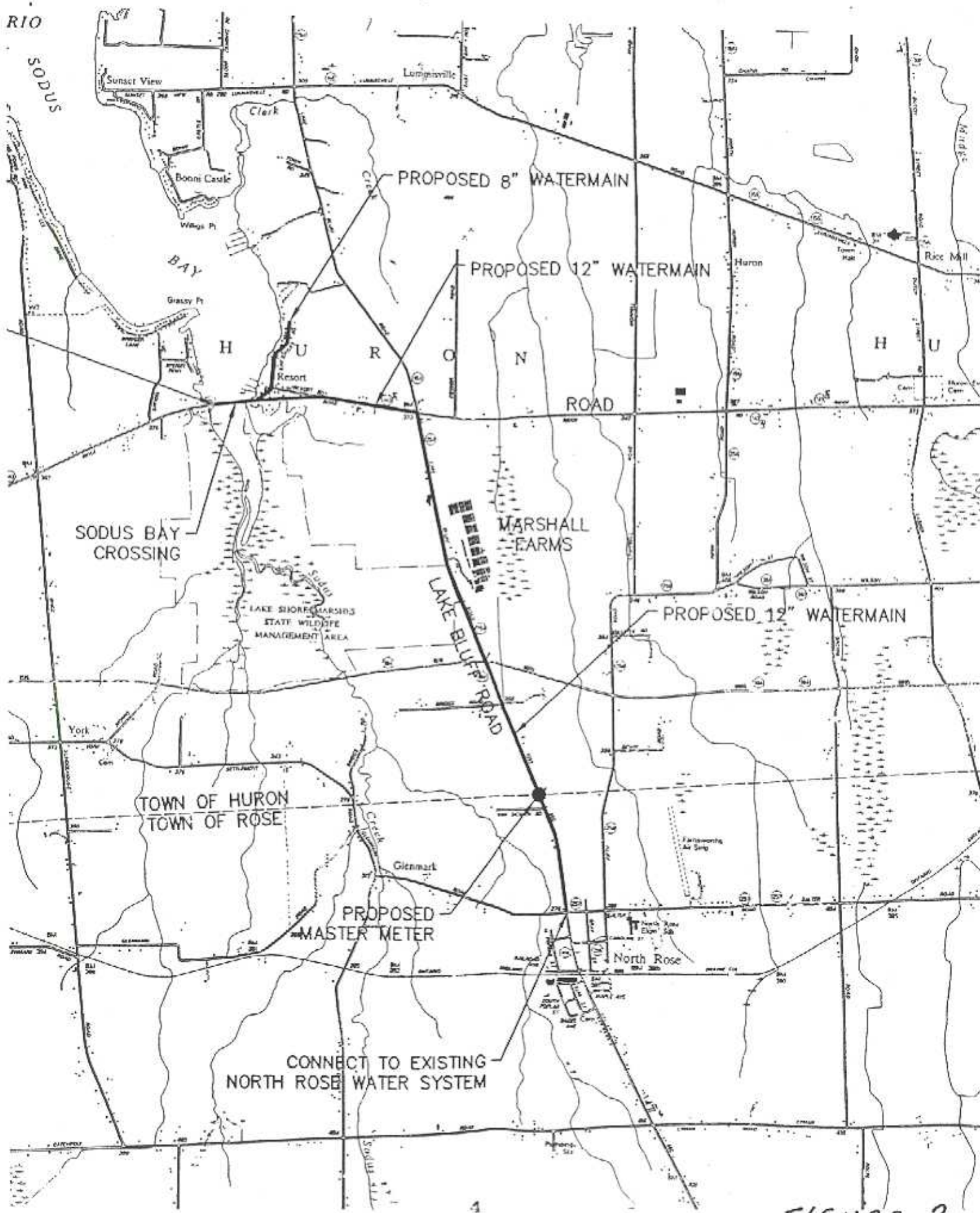


FIGURE 2

V. Project Costs:

Total Project Cost:	\$ 1,255,500
EPA Grant Amount:	\$ 578,600

Estimated Total Annual Household Charges for debt service and water usage:
Town of Huron \$618 Town of Rose \$ 483

VI. Evaluation of Alternatives:

A. No Action Alternative

Under the "no action" alternative, the Towns of Huron and Rose would not install new water distribution facilities and the two existing water systems would not be connected. The residents in the service area would continue to face the daily problems and expenses resulting from the poor quality of available water, would continue to consume water potentially contaminated with bacteria, and fire protection would not be improved in the local area. Marshall Farms would continue to incur the high costs associated with trucking in its water supply. "No action" would not resolve the known public health and safety problems in this area. As the need to address these public health problems has been identified as a high community priority, "no action" is not a practical alternative.

Purchasing of bottled water and increasing the use of water treatment systems for individual wells in the service area of the Ridge Road Water Supply Improvement Project represent potential private solutions to meet household needs for water supply. However, residents of the Towns of Huron and Rose have been using these methods for some time, and have found them to be costly, and inadequate for meeting their daily water supply requirements. In fact, the cost of purchasing bottled water on a long term basis is hundreds to thousands of times more expensive than utilizing water supplied by public water supply systems.

B. Alternative Location/Routing

The Ridge Road Water Supply Improvement Project has been designed to eliminate existing problems with poor water quality and low water supply experienced by residents of the local area. It has only recently become economically feasible to serve this area with public water as a result of the planned extension of public water facilities within the Town of Huron Water District No. 3, as well as the new waterline recently installed on the Sodus Bay Bridge. Public water cannot be supplied within the service area of the Ridge Road Water Supply Improvement Project in a cost-effective manner without locating water mains along the right-of-way of portions of Bay Shore Road, Resort Road, Ridge Road, and Lake Bluff Road (NYS Route 414). The road right-of-way represents the shortest and most direct route between the properties to be served with public water. As the

right-of-way area was previously disturbed during road construction, it would also result in the least potential environmental impacts. For this reason, there does not appear to be a practical alternative to building the improvements in the proposed location to accomplish the stated objectives.

C. Water Line Construction (Proposed Plan)

The proposed alternative involves the installation of 23,100 feet of water main along portions of Bay Shore Road, Resort Road, Ridge Road, and Lake Bluff Road (NY Route 414). The project will provide public water service to 80.5 units, including Marshall Farms, and will interconnect the water systems of the Towns of Huron and Rose. This alternative is the most practical and economically feasible solution to address the water supply issues for the project area.

VII. Environmental Consequences of Proposed Action

A. Evaluation of Impacts

1. Surface and Groundwater Quality - No significant impacts to surface or ground water quality in the project area are expected. The installation of the water mains and appurtenances will not affect surface water runoff, drainage flow patterns, the bed or banks of existing streams or water bodies (including Sodus Bay), sole source aquifers or groundwater quality or quantity.
2. Vegetation, Wildlife, and Essential Fish Habitat - The water main improvements will be constructed within the rights-of-way of existing roadways. The rights-of-way areas were previously disturbed during highway construction and generally do not contain high value habitat areas. Vegetation along the road rights-of-way is generally comprised of grasses and low, scrubby plants. The work involves excavating a trench, placement of the piping within the trench, restoration of the ground surface, and re-seeding with native vegetation. Excavation will not be extensive and the ground surface will be restored within a relatively short time. No construction activities will occur within Sodus Bay or its tributary streams. Likewise, the project will not disturb areas within the Lake Shore Marshes State Wildlife Management Area. Accordingly, no significant impacts on vegetation, wildlife or essential fish habitat have been identified.
3. Air Quality - As the water main will not result in any air emissions, no long-term impacts will occur. There will be some short term impacts to air quality as a result of construction. These include vehicular emissions from construction equipment and dust generated by earth-moving operations. These impacts will be temporary and localized, however, and can be minimized by requiring proper operation and maintenance of the construction equipment, and by sweeping and wetting down the construction area to control dust. Thus, the project will not have a significant impact on air quality.

4. Traffic - The rights-of-way along portions of Bay Shore Road, Resort Road, Ridge Road, and Lake Bluff Road (NYS Route 414) in the Towns of Huron and Rose will be affected by the project. Minor delays may be experienced as temporary lane closures or traffic detours are needed during construction. While travelers on these roadways may be inconvenienced, no significant impacts are expected.
5. Wetlands - One State-designated wetland and several small Federally-designated wetlands are located in the northern portion of the project area along Ridge Road and Bay Shore Road next to Sodus Bay. The proposed action is not expected to adversely affect these wetlands because, wherever possible, construction will occur within the road right-of-way and in previously disturbed and graded areas. If required, wetlands permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and/or the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), with any appropriate site-specific mitigation measures identified, will be obtained.
6. Floodplains - The project area is not located within a flood hazard area, so no impacts to floodplains will occur.
7. Endangered/Threatened Species - Because water main construction will take place in the road rights-of-way, no significant impacts to threatened and endangered species or habitat areas are expected. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identified the potential for the Federally-listed threatened bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) to occur in the area. Therefore, the proposed project area was surveyed for the presence of bog turtle habitat. No bog turtle habitat was observed. After reviewing the results of the habitat survey, the USFWS indicated, in an August 31, 2005 letter, that it does not anticipate that the project will result in adverse impacts to bog turtles.
8. Agricultural Lands - The project will make public water available to seventeen parcels classified as farmland or abandoned agricultural land. Short-term effects primarily involve construction-related impacts associated with excavation of a trench to contain the water main. Such ground disturbance could potentially disrupt drainage or tile lines within the adjacent agricultural field. However, because the water line will be installed within the road right-of-way, the project is not expected to result in any significant direct impacts on agricultural resources. Potential long-term impacts on agricultural resources could result in removal of farmland from production as a result of the availability of a public water supply. It is estimated that a total of approximately 563 acres of farmland are within both the service area of the Ridge Road Water Supply Improvement Project and Agricultural Districts No. 5 and No. 7 in the Towns of Huron and Rose. This land could be subject to increased development pressure due to the availability of a safe and reliable public water supply system.

9. Designated Coastal Zones - The project has been designed to minimize impacts to Sodus Bay and its associated coastal zone. The Town of Huron submitted documentation of the project's consistency with the State's coastal policies to the N.Y.S. Department of State on January 4, 2005. In a response dated March 8, 2005, the Department of State issued a General Concurrence and No Objection to Funding for the project, indicating that this proposal meets its general consistency concurrence criteria and that it has no objection to the use of federal financial assistance for the project.
10. Archeological and Historic Resources - The New York State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) reviewed the project and issued a "no effect" letter, dated December 6, 2004, indicating that the SHPO has determined that the project is not likely to affect any significant cultural resources. Accordingly, no further investigation of historic properties is required.
11. Population Growth/Secondary Impacts of Induced Growth - The Towns will use zoning regulations and site plan review procedures to minimize any potential growth-inducing aspects of the project. However, the project is not expected to significantly increase growth and development in the Towns of Huron and Rose, both of which have had generally static populations since the 1990 census.

Within the project area, development pressure would be most likely to occur along the shoreline of Sodus Bay on Bay Shore Road. Most of the water frontage along this road is already developed, and any additional homes would be considered infill development.

The project does not include the extension of water main beyond the existing roadways. As such, the project would not open any significant new areas for development, except as noted in the above discussion of agricultural areas. This will be controlled by local planning and zoning regulations, and the use of water main hookup restrictions. As a result, the project will have a minimal growth-inducing impact.

12. Noise - Residents along portions of Bay Shore Road, Resort Road, Ridge Road, and Lake Bluff Road (NY Route 414) may experience sporadic increases in noise levels during construction. This effect will be temporary and localized and will be minimized by requiring the machinery to be equipped with proper mufflers and by limiting construction operations to normal work hours.
13. Odors - The installation of the water main and the provision of public water to residents and businesses in the service area will not produce odors.
15. Aesthetics - As the water main will be installed below ground, the project will not affect views or other visual resources. Views of Sodus Bay, the primary aesthetic resource in the project area, will be unaffected by the proposed action.

16. Socio-Economic Impacts - The installation of public water facilities in these areas of the Towns of Huron and Rose will not result in any significant adverse socio-economic impacts. The most likely effects of the project are positive. As examples, a consistent water supply could encourage businesses (such as Marshall Farms) to stay or relocate to the area, or could increase the value of existing residential property.
17. Cumulative Impacts - The extension of public water as proposed within the service area will not result in any significant adverse cumulative impacts. No long-term environmental impacts have been identified for the construction of the water main improvements in this environmental review, nor in similar reviews undertaken for other State and Federal agencies. Any adverse effects of the project are associated with the construction phase and are short-term in nature. No other major construction projects located in the project vicinity are known to be in the planning phases at this time. The greatest impact associated with the proposed action is the improvement in the quality of potable water available to the area. Local residents and businesses will no longer rely on groundwater wells which produce poor quality water or an inadequate volume of supply.
18. Environmental Justice- The project area has been reviewed in accordance with EPA's criteria for identifying potential Environmental Justice (EJ) areas. EPA's Environmental Justice guidance contains the criteria for identifying potential EJ communities. EPA's analysis of the project area indicates that minorities are less than two percent of the population (compared to 34.7%, the percentage for determining minority areas in rural areas of New York State), and that less than four percent of residents have income less than the poverty level (compared to 23.6%, which is EPA's New York State percentage for determining low income areas). Accordingly, because significant populations of minorities or low-income persons are not present, the area does not meet the criteria for being classified an EJ area. Thus, there are no EJ issues associated with the project.

B. Mitigation Measures

1. Surface and Groundwater Quality - The contractor will be required to implement erosion control measures so as to minimize the impact of the excavation and backfill activities. The areas in which the water mains are to be installed will be graded and re-seeded with native vegetation as quickly as possible following construction to restore the natural setting. Standard construction practices will be used to minimize ground disturbance, erosion and drainage problems that may result during and after construction until ground cover is established.
2. Wetlands - No significant wetlands impacts are anticipated. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NYSDEC regulate actions within or adjacent to wetlands. This permit process provides ample opportunity to establish

construction practices that would mitigate potential adverse impacts through permit requirements, if construction in or adjacent to wetland areas is necessary.

3. Traffic - The Towns will obtain work permits from N.Y.S. Department of Transportation and the Wayne County Highway Department for work within the right-of-ways of NY Route 414 and Ridge Road (County Road 143), respectively. Construction signage and other measures will be implemented to maintain safety and direct traffic around the work area during water main installation.
4. Agricultural Lands - In order to minimize the direct impact of construction on agricultural lands, the Towns will require the contractor to comply with specific construction requirements established by the N.Y.S. Department of Agriculture and Markets. The Towns will restore any drainage or tile lines disturbed as a result of the construction project to existing conditions as closely as possible.

The Towns will use zoning regulations and site plan review procedures to minimize the conversion of farmland to non-farm uses. The Towns have adopted water line hookup restrictions for the portion of the project area within their boundaries, in accordance with the recommendations of the N.Y.S. Department of Agriculture and Markets. The hookup restriction resolutions limit connections to the public water system within the Agricultural Districts to agricultural uses and existing non-farm uses. The Department of Agriculture and Markets reviewed the project, including the proposed lateral hookup restrictions and, in letters to the Towns, dated May 2, 2005 and May 23, 2005, determined that the project would not have an unreasonably adverse impact on the continuing viability of farming in the agricultural districts. Subsequently, the Towns adopted resolutions implementing the hookup restrictions.

VIII. Coordination of Environmental Review

- A. Public Participation Program - The Towns carried out extensive public participation activities related to the project, as follows:
 - September 8, 2004 - Huron - Public Information Meeting on establishment of the Town of Huron Water District No. 4
 - Sept. 15 and Oct. 17, 2004 - Huron - Meetings with individual landowners who expressed concerns about Town of Huron Water District No. 4
 - November 2004 - Huron - Advertised Public Informational Meeting; distributed Question and Answer sheet
 - December 2, 2004 - Huron - Public Informational Meeting; Petition signed by interested residents
 - December 20, 2004 - Huron - Petition filed by Town residents requesting creation of Water District No. 4 (signed by greater than 50 percent of the owners of taxable real property within the proposed water district)

- December 20, 2004 - Huron - Town Board Meeting: The Town Board adopts an Order to schedule a public hearing for the establishment of Water District No. 4
- December 20, 2004 - Huron - Town Board Meeting: The Town Board of the Town of Huron declares intent to act as Lead Agency (re: State Environmental Quality Review Act [SEQR]) and to circulate Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) to Involved and Interested Agencies
- December 22, 2004 - Huron - Town Board circulates EAF and Lead Agency Resolution to Interested & Involved Agencies
- February 2005 - Huron - Public Hearing Advertised in Wayne County Star and Copy of Order posted on sign board at Town Hall
- February 14, 2005 - Huron - Town Board Meeting: The Town of Huron Town Board declares Lead Agency status & issues a Negative Declaration
- February 14, 2005 - Huron - Public Hearing: Water District No. 4 established at the end of the Hearing
- February 15, 2005 - Rose - Town Board Meeting: The Town Board adopts an Order to schedule a public hearing for the establishment of Town of Rose Extension No. 7 to Water District No. 1
- March 2005 - Rose - Public Hearing Advertised in Wayne County Star and Copy of Order posted on sign board at Town Hall
- March 3, 2005 - Huron - SEQR Negative Declaration is circulated to Involved and Interested Agencies
- March 9, 2005 - Notice of Negative Declaration is published in the NYSDEC Environmental Notice Bulletin
- March 15, 2005 - Rose - Public Hearing - Town of Rose Extension No. 7 to Water District No. 1 established at the end of the Hearing
- May 11 & May 18, 2005 - Huron - Preliminary Notice of Possible Impact to an Important Land Resource is published in the Wayne County Star, as required by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- May 18, 2005 - Huron - Public Informational Meeting: Update residents on project status
- June 2005 (for two consecutive weeks) - Huron - Combined Final Notification and Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact is published in the Wayne County Star, as required by USDA

B. Tribal Nations and Federal, State and Local Agencies Notified and/or Consulted

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Agricultural Service Center, Canandaigua, N.Y.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lyons, N.Y.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, New York, N.Y.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cortland, N.Y.

- N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 8
- N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation, Natural Heritage Program, Information Services
- N.Y.S. Department of Health, Albany, N.Y.
- N.Y.S. Department of Health, Geneva District Office
- N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Historic Preservation Field Services, Peebles Island, N.Y.
- N.Y.S. Dept. of State, Division of Coastal Resources & Waterfront Revitalization
- N.Y.S. Dept of Agriculture & Markets
- N.Y.S. Department of Transportation, Rochester, N.Y.
- Wayne County Dept. of Public Health
- Wayne County Planning Department
- Wayne County Highway Department
- Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority
- Wayne County Board of Supervisors
- Wayne County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
- Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
- Seneca Nation of Indians

C. Significant Correspondence

- N.Y.S. Department of Health, December 3, 2004
- N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, December 6, 2004
- N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Fish, Wildlife Resources Center, Information Services, December 9, 2004
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, February 10, 2005 and August 31, 2005
- N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation Region 8, February 9, 2005
- N.Y.S. Department of State, March 8, 2005
- N.Y.S. Department of Agriculture & Markets (to Town of Rose), May 23, 2005, April 8, 2005 and February 3, 2005
- N.Y.S. Department of Agriculture & Markets (to Town of Huron), May 2, 2005;
- March 17, 2005; and January 24, 2005
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, February 23, 2005
- Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, December 10, 2004
- New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, Lead Agency Coordination Response Form, Involved Agencies, December 2004 and February 2005
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, May 23, 2005 - notification letter to Seneca Nation of Indians
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, May 24, 2005 - letter to Wayne County highlighting EPA requirements

D. References

- Environmental Information Document for the Ridge Road Water Supply Improvement Project in the Towns of Huron and Rose, May 2005, Stuart I. Brown Associates, Inc.
- Stuart I. Brown, Project Consultant, September 8, 2005 and September 20, 2005, letters to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, supplementing the Environmental Information Document